

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert on page 4, between line 16 and line 17, the following new paragraph:

Figure 8 is a plan view of a planar dielectric element interposed between a planar dielectric circuit board and a conductive ground plane 14.

Please replace the paragraph bridging page 4 and page 5 with the following new paragraph:

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, dielectric element 1 is slidably mounted and adjacent to the top surface of a PCB distribution element comprising a planar dielectric circuit board 12 supporting a conductive track 13 on a first surface 12a thereof. The conductive track and the dielectric circuit board form a transmission line whose distal ends terminate at respective terminals T and B. The distribution element is supported in a spaced relationship with a conductive ground plane 14. The dielectric board's second surface 12b and the ground plane face one another. Alternately, the second surface of the circuit board and the ground plane can be contiguous (not shown). The movable dielectric element 1 is supported above the first surface 12a of circuit board 12 in a linearly slidable manner by two parallel rods 15, 16 attached to the ground plane. It will be understood that the movable dielectric will have the effect of varying the phase whether it is adjacent the first surface 12a or the second surface 12b, although the phase shift achieved by each arrangement will be different; the movable dielectric element will have a greater effect when adjacent the second surface 12b, i.e., interposed between surface 12b and the ground plane 14 (as shown in Figure 8).

On page 6, please delete the second full paragraph and replace it with the following new paragraph:

It will be understood that the arrangement by which the dielectric element can be selectively moved in relation to the transmission line to vary the phase of signals is not limited to the preferred arrangement of parallel rods used in the embodiments described in relation to Figures 1 and 6. Various known arrangements could be adapted, such as, for example, rotational arrangements. Further, remotely controlled servomechanisms 23, 24 could be adapted to move the dielectric element as shown in Figure 3.